



*Office of the
City Manager*

City of Salisbury ***North Carolina***

October 14, 2011

Mr. Gary Page
County Manager
Rowan County
130 West Innes Street
Salisbury, NC 28144-4365

Dear Gary:

In the coming weeks it is my goal as the Salisbury Interim City Manager to move the 911 dispatch discussions in a positive direction for all Rowan County citizens. While I have full faith in your ability to solve this issue with me, at this time I am requesting that we form a study group to move this item forward. This group would include our participation along with the participation of our respective elected officials.

As a good faith gesture, the City has space available on the 2nd floor of the Salisbury Police Department that could house an expanded County PSAP until such time as a new facility can be brought on line. This space could be made available without cost to the County during this period. My understanding of your comments is that you do not have adequate space at your current 911 location to house new equipment, and therefore cannot consider our suggestion to move forward in a manner previously discussed. The space that is available at our Police Department was included for future growth of our public safety function and will be offered to you free without rent for the duration of a consolidation feasibility study, which has been requested by the Salisbury City Council.

This offer is a win/win and would allow us to accomplish the following:

1. Allow you space for your new equipment and/or staff which you shared cannot be located in your current space.
2. Allow a temporary site for your dispatch to be operational while the City of Salisbury and Rowan County jointly pursue a consolidation feasibility study to ensure that consolidation will in fact improve the delivery of public safety deliver and result in recently discussed savings.
3. Allow Rowan County to apply for state funding during the next grant round to pay for a permanent primary PSAP saving the county from spending \$1.2 million in tax funds. As I have

shared earlier Rockingham County and Burke County have received \$15 million in 911 funds for this use. Further, our citizens have already paid into this fund so it makes sense to pursue it.

4. Allow the \$1.2 million in tax funds to be spent on other public safety radio needs, or roll off the books early. Our staff has several ideas on how these funds could be better spent to benefit the public safety community.

5. Allow the \$500,000 in 911 reserve funds allowed by legislation, which was also to be spent on the building, to be spent on other pressing needs (including the cost of the consolidation feasibility study).

6. Since both County and City dispatch would be located in the same building for an interim period, it would allow for a real life test of the co-location concept providing valuable experience and feedback before capital expenditures are made.

While the last two weeks have been challenging, this is an opportunity for the City of Salisbury and Rowan County to work together for the benefit of both all Rowan County citizens and the public safety community.

I understand this would be a deviation from your existing plans, but the offer is worth merit and the potential benefits are sizable. Further, I understand that our available space may not be as ideal as an immediate move into a brand new building with built in room for growth; however, we feel it will be adequate for your five dispatch positions and six console stations in the interim until the study can be completed, and at which time state funds can be utilized to fully pay for and build the ideal facility.

It would be appropriate for the future study group to explore this offer in more detail, and discuss other potential solutions that Rowan County may prefer. I would expect such discussions to be very productive and provide for an excellent result.

The City of Salisbury will discuss the above request and offer Tuesday at the Salisbury City Council meeting. I would ask that Rowan County consider discussing both the request and offer on Monday at your meeting.

Sincerely,



Doug Paris
Interim City Manager

cc: Salisbury City Council